

Lawyers want to find Holy Loch ship workers from 60s

By CARL GORDON

A LONDON firm of researchers specialising in inquiries about asbestos-related diseases is trying to contact anyone who worked aboard the USS Proteus, the Polaris submarine depot ship, based at the Holy Loch in the Clyde between 1960 and 1965.

They are acting on behalf of lawyers in California, who have taken up the case of a former United States sailor who served on the ship at that time, and is now said to have an asbestos-related illness.

Researcher Laurie Allen, of Jerome Consultants, has been placing advertisements in Scottish newspapers. She said yesterday:

"I am very anxious to contact anyone with information.

"We thought we might have been able to get in touch with British contractors who worked on the ship, but it seems now that since this was at the height of the Cold War, it was probably all American personnel who were doing the work."

She said she had spoken to a lot of people from their last investigation — when they were tracing people who worked on the former Cunard liner Queen Mary — but nobody knew of any firm which had carried out work at the Holy Loch.

An officer at the US Navy's European headquarters in London said no-one was available yesterday for comment.